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account the great social and industrial problems now confronting the country. Failure to give due weight to this phase of the Chilean situation robs the concluding chapter of much of its value.

L. S. ROWE.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Shaw, Albert.** *The Outlook for the Average Man.* Pp. vi, 240. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1907.

At first glance, one is tempted to call this book "The Outlook for the Average Young Man," as five addresses to college men constitute its contents. The title is well chosen, however, as expressive of the central thought running through the five chapters. A spirit of optimism pervades the pages and stamps the discussion of various professions which open to college men—but not the extreme optimism which has been defined as "not worrying about what is going to happen, so long as it is not going to happen to you."

The chapter on "The Business Career and the Community" considers the public aspects of the various professions. The lawyer, physician, teacher, engineer, architect, journalist, legislator, have each a public character. Every professional man should possess a sort of public spirit in his line of work; the physician should be interested in the health of the community, the journalist in its enlightenment, the engineer in general sanitary conditions. Public spirit is defined as "that state or habit of mind which leads a man to care greatly for the general welfare," and the development of this state of mind should be the great object of all training. Business also is of a public nature. "How to organize business life on a basis at once stable and efficient; how to see that capital is assured of a normal even though declining percentage of dividends, while labor shall be rewarded according to its capacity and desert,"—these are problems concerning the whole community and worthy the best efforts of the trained mind. Railroads and banks are already recognized as closely connected with the general welfare; and "there are regions where the capitalist who builds a cotton mill or factory is rescuing whole communities from degradation."

"From the standpoint of the intellectual interest of the young man going into business, let it be borne in mind that there are scientific principles underlying every branch of trade or commerce or industry, and that there is almost, if not quite, as much room for the delightful play of the faculty of imagination in the successful conduct of the soap business, as in writing poetry, or in making statuary groups for world's fairs."

ERNEST SMITH BRADFORD.

*Washington, D. C.*

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**Simpson, W. J.** *A Treatise on Plague.* Pp. xxiv, 466. Price, 16 shillings. Cambridge: University Press.

As a disease capable of causing more than a million deaths in India during a single year, 1904, as the cause of the famous "Black Death," and innum-

erable other epidemics of no less deadly destruction in the Old World, plague must be regarded as one of the most important of all the forces against which Eastern peoples have had to contend. The Western Hemisphere has fortunately been singularly free from great outbreaks of this disease and with due precaution, this degree of immunity will doubtless continue. In Asiatic countries, on the contrary, much work is necessary before those regions of poverty and distress can hope to be rid of plague ravages. For India especially it is a grievous calamity, bringing suffering and desolation which cannot be realized by those outside the country's borders. With thirty or forty thousand deaths a week during the plague season, India is confronted with scarcity of labor and declining trade in the provinces most affected. As a social and economic factor, therefore, plague assumes gigantic proportions, and carries with its study an interest attaching to few other diseases.

In this monograph the author has divided his discussion into four general fields as follows: first, the history and geographical distribution of the plague; second, the epidemiology of plague; third, the clinical and therapeutic features; and finally, the measures for prevention and suppression of the disease. An appendix gives the provisions adopted by the International Sanitary Convention, meeting at Paris in 1903, presenting the rules to be observed when plague appears.

The historical section deals mainly with the great epidemics during the Christian era, and points out the close relation between trade and the spread of plague which was recognized at a very early date. This relation, however, is most strikingly illustrated by the fact that even down to the present time the disease, common enough at Chinese seaports, has not made extensive inroads into the interior of the country except in those districts where waterways connect them with infected localities. With the rapid trade development of Eastern Asia, and the building of railroads where such routes have not existed heretofore, the necessity of plague control becomes all the more urgent not only in Asia itself, but also in those countries which are rivals in Asiatic trade. This fact is shown graphically on a map of the world, giving the location of endemic centers and the spread via maritime routes in the decade 1894 to 1904.

The most interesting part of the volume is the portion dealing with the epidemiology of plague, discussing as it does the relation between epizootics and plague epidemics; the effect of meteorological, climatic and seasonal conditions, social and sanitary conditions, and the spread of plague in pandemics. Several striking diagrams illustrate the close relation between mortality among rats and human deaths from plague, a relation observed by the Syrians 3,000 years ago. The author's conclusions regarding the factors favoring epidemics and pandemics may be summarised as follows: that they are generally associated with unusual seasons, as drought and famine years, which bring distress and misery, with political, social or economic conditions which are the reverse of prosperous, and with laxity or absence of sanitation. Where the social conditions are worst, where poverty, misery, overcrowding, poor food, and unsanitary conditions pre-

vail, there plague commits its greatest ravages. Hence the remedy becomes largely a social question.

Entirely apart from its medical aspects, which are here readily intelligible even to the layman, the study of plague must prove decidedly fascinating to anyone at all interested in social, political or economic problems. A topical table of contents, a full index and numerous excellent charts and diagrams add greatly to the value of the book.

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WALTER SHELDON TOWER.

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**Smith, J. Russell.** *The Story of Iron and Steel.* Pp. xi, 193. Price, 75 cents. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1908.

Complete in detail, clear and forceful in diction, with few technical terms, this book may truthfully be described as the first satisfactory popular history of the world's greatest industry. Although of small compass this volume gives what larger volumes have failed to do—namely, an intelligent, readable presentation of the broad aspects of iron and steel making, which are of interest to the average man. It discusses not only the purely technical development from a historical standpoint, but also the no less important economic and commercial results accompanying this development.

The chapters deal in order with iron ores and their formation; the early history of iron; the beginning of modern iron-making and its introduction into America; the anthracite epoch; the coke epoch; the leadership of Great Britain in the nineteenth century; the coming of the age of steel; the supremacy of the United States; consolidation and combination in production; and the ore and steel supply of the future.

The last two phases of the subject have called forth the presentation of essentially new views. In the author's opinion the steel trust is based on possession of the best ore and is a secure monopoly only in so far as it controls the most important sources of raw materials. Certain independent concerns, favored by location may be regarded as benefiting from the formation of the trust because of the consequent price control. The security of the trust, moreover, depends on a continuation of present processes of iron and steel manufacture as illustrated by the obvious conclusion that a trust formed on the use of anthracite coal would have perished unless it could have changed its basis early in the succeeding coke epoch. Without radical changes in technical processes the supremacy of the trust is likely to increase as the independent supplies of raw material are exhausted. The revolutionary change of technical process is, however, not such a remote possibility after all. The perfection of the electric furnace to such a degree that it will become an important industrial factor, and the necessity of turning to ore supplies now considered inferior or impossible to adapt to existing processes, unquestionably mean vast changes in the future. Just what these changes will be is, of course, a speculative matter, but the discussion of them, in so far as is possible, forms one of the most interesting parts of this very instructive book.

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